

Message Text

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PAGE 01 YAOUND 01207 221036Z

ACTION AF-02

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FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

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FOR IOP/M, IBS NEWS COVERAGE DESK ATTENTION AFRICAN DIVISION PASS
IPS AFRICAN BRANCH

CARTER ADMINISTRATION REQUESTS 300 PERCENT INCREASE IN AID TO
CAMEROON.

THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS REQUESTED A 300 PERCENT INCREASE
IN U.S. AID TO CAMEROON FOR THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING IN
OCTOBER 1977. ACCORDING TO U.S. AMBASSADOR TO CAMEROON HERBERT J.
SPIRO.

AMBASSADOR SPIRO MADE THIS DISCLOSURE WHILE SPEAKING TO THE
PRESS IN YAOUND ON MARCH 21 AT AN INFORMAL DISCUSSION OF HUMAN
RIGHTS ASPECTS OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY.

AMBASSADOR SPIRO STRESSED THAT THE INCREASE WOULD HAVE TO BE
APPROVED BY CONGRESS BEFORE IT COULD GO INTO EFFECT.

IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION OF WHY THE U.S. DID NOT GIVE A
GREATER PROPORTION OF ITS GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT TO THE DEVELOPING
WORLD IN VIEW OF THE SIGNIFICANT PROPORTIONS OF ITS GNP IN TRANS-
FERRED TO EUROPE UNDER THE MARSHALL PLAN, AMBASSADOR SPIRO SAID THAT
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES LACK THE INFRASTRUCTURE TO ABSORB SUCH
MASSIVE INFUSIONS OF CAPITAL. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT PRESIDENT
CARTER IN HIS RECENT SPEECH TO THE U.N. HAD CALLED FOR A DOUBLING
OF THE PROPORTION OF THE U.S. GNP DEVOTED TO FOREIGN AID.

WHEN ASKED WHETHER THE U.S. S RENEWED EMPHASIS ON HUMAN
RIGHTS INTERNATIONALLY WAS NOT AN ATTACK ON THE COMMUNIST
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COUNTRIES, MR. SPIRO REPLIED THAT THE U.S. IS SEEKING TO PROTECT
BASIC, INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED HUMAN RIGHTS AS SET FORTH IN
THE CHARTER OF UNITED NATIONS, THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF
HUMAN RIGHTS, AND OTHER DOCUMENTS WHICH ARE SUBSCRIBED TO BY
VIRTUALLY EVERY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD, INCLUDING COMMUNIST COUNTRIES.

AMBASSADOR SPIRO ADDED THAT U.S. EMPHASIS ON RESPECT FOR

HUMAN RIGHTS COULD BE EXPECTED TO WORK TO AFRICA'S ADVANTAGE,
BOTH IN REGARD TO THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICAN AND ON THE
QUESTION OF AID TO AFRICA.
PRILLAMAN

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